

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 108915

FOLLOWING REPEAT THE HAGUE 2368 ACTION SECSTATE DATED APR 28:

QTE: UNCLAS THE HAGUE 2368

USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, NL
SUBJ: PRESS RELEASE ON VAN DER KLAUW VISIT.

REF: STATE 104557

1. PROVENANCE OF REQUESTED PRESS STORIES WAS NON-U.S.
ATTRIBUTION BRIEFING BY EMBASSY AND ICA TO FIVE
LEADING DUTCH DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENTS, ALL OF WHOM
ARE EXPERT ON AND HAVE BEEN WRITING ABOUT NON-PROLI-
FERATION AND URENCO. BRIEFING DREW
ON MOST HELPFUL NYE ARTICLE IN "FOREIGN AFFAIRS"
(STATE A-1449).

2. NRC HANDELSBLAD, APRIL 18, BY AN SALOMONSON.
TEXT FOLLOWS:
"US IS IN FAVOR OF CONTINUATION OF URENCO"
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THE HAGUE. "THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE THE COOPERATION
IN URENCO IN REGARD TO ENRICHMENT OF URANIUM TO BE
CONTINUED BY HOLLAND. IT IS ALSO IN FAVOR OF EXPANSION
OF THE URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACTORY IN ALMELO. THE US
GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT FAVOR A DEVELOPMENT AS A RESULT
OF WHICH WEST GERMANY WOULD BUILD ITS OWN INSTALLATION
FOR ENRICHMENT. IT DOESN'T CONSIDER A STORAGE PLAN FOR
PLUTONIUM TO BE A GOOD SOLUTION AT PRESENT AND PREFERS
A SYSTEM WHEREBY ALL NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN THE CUSTOMER'S
COUNTRY FALL UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE IAEA. EX-STATE SECRETARY

KOOIJMANS, WHO OCCUPIED HIMSELF IN THE DEN UYL CABINET INTENSIVELY WITH NON-PROLIFERATION, DOESN'T AGREE WITH THIS US VIEWPOINT. HE REMAINS IN FAVOR OF A STORAGE REGIME FOR PLUTONIUM.

OFFICIAL US SOURCES STATE THAT THE US VIEWPOINT WAS EXPLAINED LAST WEEK BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR NON-PROLIFERATION, AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH, TO MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

THE AMERICANS CONSIDER THAT THE FEWER ENRICHMENT INSTALLATIONS IN THE WORLD THE BETTER. THEY ARE OPPOSED TO THE BUILDING OF NEW FACTORIES AND WOULD MUCH PREFER AN EXTENSION TO THE ENRICHMENT PLANT IN ALMELO TO THE BUILDING OF A NEW NATIONAL ENRICHMENT PLANT IN EUROPE, NO MATTER WHERE.

INSIDERS REGARD THIS AS AN INDICATION THAT WASHINGTON IS NOT TOO PLEASED ABOUT A GERMAN PLAN TO BUILD AN ENRICHMENT INSTALLATION IN GRONAU, CLOSE TO THE DUTCH-GERMAN BORDER.

THE US CONSIDERS THAT A STORAGE REGIME FOR PLUTONIUM, AS PROPOSED BY EX-MINISTER VAN DER STOEL AND AS IN THE MEANTIME AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE THREE URENCO PARTNERS AND BRAZIL, WOULD BE THE LEGITIMIZATION OF THE SOCALLED UNCLASSIFIED

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PLUTONIUM ECONOMY, WHICH THE US WANTS TO PREVENT. IN A DEPOT OF THIS NATURE THE PLUTONIUM, WHICH CAN BE USED AS A MATERIAL FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS, IS STORED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE IAEA. PLUTONIUM IS RELEASED IN THE PROCESS OF THE ACTIVATION OF NUCLEAR WASTE MATTER FROM NUCLEAR CENTERS. THE US GOVERNMENT SEES MORE IN "FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS", CONTROL ON ALL NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES OF THE CUSTOMER COUNTRY. THIS CONTROL IS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT). IT IS THIS CONDITION IN FACT WHICH HAS STOPPED SOME COUNTRIES FROM SIGNING THE TREATY. THE SOCALLED 'SUPPLIERS' GROUP', IN WHICH ARE UNITED THE FIFTEEN MOST IMPORTANT NUCLEAR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES, PLANS TO COUPLE THIS CONDITION FROM NOW ON TO ALL NUCLEAR EXPORTS. FOR THE TIME BEING THIS PLAN IS STUCK BECAUSE OF THE RESISTANCE OF FRANCE, AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES.

ACCORDING TO THE US SOURCES THERE IS A ONE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE, BY WHICH IN FACT ALL NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION WITHOUT CREATING THE SAME LEGAL OBLIGATIONS AS THERE ARE UNDER THE NPT.

(OUR INFORMANTS REFUSED TO DISCUSS THIS POINT FURTHER.)

IN THE NEW NON-PROLIFERATION LAW, SIGNED ON 10 MARCH LAST BY PRESIDENT CARTER, 'FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS' ARE ALSO DEMANDED FOR ALL FUTURE NUCLEAR DELIVERIES. AMBASSADOR SMITH EXPLAINED TO VAN DER KLAUW THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME EFFORTS ON THE PART OF HOLLAND

TO PERSUADE BRAZIL, WHICH HAS NOT SIGNED THE NPT, THAT IT SHOULD ACCEPT THESE 'DE FACTO' FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS'. SMITH STATED THAT THE CAUSE OF NON-PROLIFERATION WOULD BE SERVED IN THIS WAY. HE EVEN CONSIDERED IT POSSIBLE THAT THE DUTCH SECOND CHAMBER WOULD AGREE TO A RULING OF THIS NATURE.

ACCORDING TO SMITH THERE WOULD NOT REALLY BE SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'DE FACTO FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS' AND A PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME, BECAUSE IN BOTH CASES UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTROL WOULD BE EXERCISED BY THE IAEA. WHAT'S MORE A PLUTONIUM DEPOT REALLY WOULD NOT MEAN ANY PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PROLIFERATION. A NEGATIVE ASPECT IS THAT IT WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDE COMPLETE INSPECTION.

ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCES WASHINGTON WOULD NOT BE ENTHUSIASTIC IF THE THREE URENCO PARTNERS AND BRAZIL CAME TO THE IAEA WITH A SUGGESTION FOR A SO CALLED 'UNIVERSAL', I. E. WORLD-WIDE, REGIME REGARDING PLUTONIUM STORAGE. THE US HAS A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GOVERNING BODY AND WOULD NOT CARE TO VOTE NEGATIVELY IN REGARD TO A PLAN PUT FORWARD BY ITS MOST IMPORTANT ALLIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PROLIFERATION. IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT HOLLAND WOULD ALSO PREFER TO AVOID A SITUATION OF THIS NATURE. THE PROPOSAL OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES, TO WHICH THEY HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES IN AN AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL, WOULD POSSIBLY BE PRESENTED DURING THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR IN VIENNA."

3. HET PAROOL, APRIL 18 BY FRANS BLETZ.

TEXT FOLLOWS:

"NEW SUGGESTIONS SENT TO TWO URENCO PARTNERS" THE HAGUE. "LETTERS WERE HANDED OVER YESTERDAY TO THE WEST GERMAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, CONTAINING THE LATEST DUTCH SUGGESTIONS REGARDING URENCO. PREMIER VAN AGT SPOKE ABOUT THESE LETTERS TEN DAYS AGO DURING THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, BUT THEY WERE WRITTEN ONLY AFTER MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD RETURNED FROM THE US. GOVERNMENT CIRCLES ADMIT THAT THESE NEW SUGGESTIONS DON'T COMPLETELY MEET THE WISHES OF THE CHAMBER IN REGARD TO A SECURE PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME AT AN UNCLASSIFIED

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EARLIER DATE. THE LETTERS HAVE ALSO FOUND LITTLE SUPPORT FROM THE WEST GERMAN AND BRITISH PARTNERS IN URENCO. OFFICIAL US SOURCES YESTERDAY ONCE AGAIN EMPHASIZED

THAT HOLLAND MUST REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE URENCO GROUP. IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF NON-PROLIFERATION THAT THIS GROUP DOESN'T SPLIT, FOR THEN THE ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY WOULD FALL INTO NATIONAL - READ WEST GERMAN - HANDS; ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES. PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR NON-PROLIFERATION, GERARD SMITH, SAID THIS LAST WEEK IN WASHINGTON TO VAN DER KLAUW. AT THE SAME TIME SMITH REPEATED THAT THE US IS NOT INTERESTED IN A PLUTONIUM STORAGE REGIME. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH STORAGE DEPOTS WOULD CONTRIBUTE ONLY MODESTLY TO NON-PROLIFERATION, AND IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW IF SUCH ESTABLISHMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE SPREADING OF THE REPROCESSING TECHNIQUE TO OTHER COUNTRIES. MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW EXPLAINS THE US ATTITUDE AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS IN THE ATTEMPTS TO SPEED UP A STORAGE REGIME IN BRAZIL TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THIS LEADS TO A SPLIT IN URENCO. IN THIS RESPECT HE SEES INDIRECT SUPPORT IN THE US POLICY. THE US HAS ENCOURAGED VAN DER KLAUW TO WORK RATHER FOR COMPLETE CONTROL BY THE VIENNESE IAEA OF THE WHOLE NUCLEAR SITUATION IN BRAZIL. AVOIDANCE OF SUCH CONTROL SHOULD BE PUNISHED BY A CESSATION OF THE URANIUM DELIVERIES. HOWEVER, THIS APPROACH IS QUITE DIFFERENT TO THAT WHICH HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT. THIS APPROACH DOES NOT SEEM FEASIBLE TO THE HAGUE ANY MORE. IN THE MEANTIME THE 'PLANNED' FIRST SPADE FOR THE EXTENSION WORK TO THE URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT IN ALMELO DIDN'T ENTER THE GROUND YESTERDAY. ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT THE CONTRACTS WITH THE BUILDERS ARE NOT YET COMPLETELY SETTLED."

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4. DE VOLKSKRANT, APRIL 19, BY HAN HANSEN.

TEXT FOLLOWS:

"MINISTER IS TO INFORM ABOUT POSITION OF ALMELO" THE HAGUE. "ON THURSDAY THE SECOND CHAMBER COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL HEAR A REPORT BY MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW ON HIS WASHINGTON TALKS. THE MAIN ELEMENT WILL BE THE US POSITION AS REGARDS THE URENCO CONFLICT, BUT A SUMMING-UP IS ALSO EXPECTED FROM THE MINISTER ABOUT THE RECENT TALKS ON THE ALMELO QUESTION. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO WIN SUPPORT FROM BONN AND LONDON FOR THE SECOND CHAMBER MOTION BY VAN HOUWELINGEN. IT WOULD SEEM THAT MINISTER VAN DER KLAUW WAS ADVISED IN WASHINGTON OF THE US DESIRE TO TIE THE CONTROVERSIAL DELIVERY CONTRACT WHICH URENCO HAS WITH BRAZIL TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE WHOLE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, AS SET OUT IN THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. BRAZIL HAS, HOWEVER, NOT SIGNED THIS TREATY. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEES NO VALUE IN A STORAGE

REGIME FOR PLUTONIUM. IT IS KNOWN THAT URENCO HAS REACHED A BASIC FORM OF AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL IN REGARD TO THIS MATTER. THIS WAS NECESSARY BEFORE BRAZIL COULD BE PERMITTED IN ABOUT 1985 TO START A GERMAN ENRICHMENT PLAN WHICH PRODUCES PLUTONIUM AS A BY-PRODUCT. INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS OF PLUTONIUM SUPPLIES WERE THE FURTHEST SECURITY GUARANTEES ATTAINABLE. ACCORDING TO US SOURCES PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT SUPPORT A CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE ENTIRE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE, VIA THE IAEA IN VIENNA. THIS WOULD BE SAFEGUARDED FROM THE FIRST DELIVERY UP TILL AND INCLUDING THE USE OF THE LAST OUNCE OF PLUTONIUM. THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SIGNED THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY STILL HAVE TO WORK OUT A PRACTICAL SYTEM. ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON BRAZIL COULD BE TIED 'DE FACTO' TO THIS.

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THE US GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZED TO VAN DER KLAUW THAT IT IS OPPOSED TO THE REPROCESSING OF THE FISSIONABLE MATERIAL IN BRAZIL AND THIS ALSO TO THE FORMATION OF SUPPLIES OF PLUTONIUM. WASHINGTON WOULD REGARD HOLLAND'S DEPARTURE FROM URENCO AS A DEFEAT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST PROLIFERATION. FOR THIS REASON THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY THAT THE ALMELO FACTORY IS EXPENDED. THIS WOULD BE A BETTER GUARANTEE THAN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ENRICHMENT FACTORIES. WHAT IS MEANT IS THE PLAN FOR A GERMAN FACTORY IN GRONAU.

EX-MINISTER VAN DER STOEL (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) SAYS HE STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE US GOVERNMENT REALLY THINKS THAT HOLLAND CAN ACHIEVE AS A WATCH-DOG IN URENCO. 'THE COMPLETE SCRAPPING OF A GERMAN ENRICHMENT FACTORY FOR BRAZIL IS AN UNREALISTIC APPROACH. THE BEST MANNER IS THEREFORE TO TRY TO MAKE THE SAFEGUARDS AS GOOD AS POSSIBLE. NOT CONTROL AFTERWORDS, BUT IMMEDIATE CONTROL ON THE STORAGE OF PLUTONIUM. WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE WILL EVER BE A SAFE CONTROL ON THE WHOLE NUCLEAR CYCLE.' THE MOST RECENT ATTEMPT BY THE VAN AGT GOVERNMENT IS NOW AN EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE URENCO PARTNERS TO ADD AN EXTRA CLAUSE THAT BRAZIL MAY NOT REPROCESS, AND THEREFORE MAY NOT STORE PLUTONIUM, IF BY THAT TIME THERE STILL ARE NO WATER-TIGHT INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS. THE LABOR PARTY IN THE SECOND CHAMBER IS OPPOSED TO THIS. THIS PARTY, ON THE BASIS OF THE VAN HOUWELINGEN MOTION, COSIDERS THAT NO URENCO FISSIONABLE MATERIAL SHOULD BE DELIVERED AS LONG AS BRAZIL HAS NOT TIED ITSELF TO A CREDIBLE REGIME. BROWN UNQTE VANCE

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